

HOUSE RESOLUTION 182

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to thank the members of the State Capitol Commission for their past support of diversity in historic displays in the State Capitol.

WHEREAS, first opened in 1859, the Tennessee State Capitol is a magnificent tribute to the people of Tennessee, as the grounds feature statues of such legendary Tennessee heroes as President Andrew Jackson, President Andrew Johnson, and Sergeant Alvin C. York in addition to the tomb of President James K. Polk and his wife, First Lady Sarah Polk; and

WHEREAS, the grounds of the State Capitol also include special memorials to state, national, and international tragedies, including a plaque paying tribute to those enslaved persons who lost their lives during the infamous Middle Passage, six cedar trees that symbolize the six million Jews who were killed during the Holocaust, and a remembrance tree planted in honor of the late Tennessee State Senator Tommy Burks, who was murdered by a political rival; and

WHEREAS, established by the General Assembly in 1986, the State Capitol Commission is charged with establishing a master plan and program for the adaptive restoration and preservation of the State Capitol, including the building and contiguous grounds as well as the Bicentennial Mall and the monuments and permanent fixtures there, and a policy controlling the furnishings, governing maintenance and use of the Capitol, and approving all modifications and improvements; and

WHEREAS, the State Capitol Commission's principles for the interior collection state that it is intended to provide an enriching experience that illuminates and broadens understanding of all of Tennessee's heritage and culture and reflects the diversity of Tennessee's people; and

WHEREAS, in appropriate tribute to the diversity of Tennessee's heritage and culture, the State Capitol Commission has overseen the installation of memorials inside the State Capitol that honor the passage in Tennessee of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution that ensured women's suffrage and the adoption of the 14th and 15th amendments to the United States Constitution that granted African-Americans citizenship and male suffrage as well as a bust in the likeness of Sampson W. Keeble, the first African-American member of the Tennessee General Assembly, with a plaque listing all the African-American members of the General Assembly during the 19th century; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body expects the members of the State Capitol Commission to continue their commitment to honoring diversity as they consider those distinguished Tennesseans who deserve a permanent memorial in the State Capitol of Tennessee and look forward to a greater representation of the historical diversity of our great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby thank the members of the State Capitol Commission for their past support of diversity in the addition of new historical displays in the State Capitol and expect their commitment to honoring diversity to continue as they consider those distinguished Tennesseans who deserve a permanent memorial in the State Capitol of Tennessee and look forward to a greater representation of the historical diversity of our great State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to each member of the State Capitol Commission.